

U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley

IOWA'S SENIOR SENATOR

Keeping in touch with Iowans enables Sen. Chuck Grassley to bring Iowa common sense to official Washington. From the river towns along the mighty Mississippi to the farm communities nestled among the Loess Hills in Western Iowa, Chuck Grassley stays well-informed by holding open meetings in each of Iowa's 99 counties every year. A hallmark of Grassley's commitment to make representative government work, the senior senator from Iowa works hard to give individual Iowans a voice in Washington. Plus, from his assignments on Capitol Hill, Grassley is where he needs to be to advocate for Iowa's interests.

The only working family farmer in the U.S. Senate, Grassley brings true grit to his congressional oversight responsibilities. Seeking a more accountable government, Grassley works to keep Washington honest. Whether it's tracking constituent casework or going head-to-head with the Pentagon, Grassley works to make the federal government work better. He successfully led a six-year campaign to make Congress live under the same laws as the rest of the country.

Sinking his teeth into the federal government's bureaucratic alphabet soup, Grassley has fostered reforms of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the federal agency that runs Medicare, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Keeping vigil against waste, fraud and abuse, Grassley also is a perennial recipient of the Taxpayer's Friend Award. As the second most senior member of the Senate Budget Committee, Grassley champions fiscal discipline. Involved in negotiating the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Grassley helped shepherd through Congress the first balanced federal budget since 1969.

Grassley's tenacity has earned renown inside the Beltway and outside Washington. The Iowa senator's tight grip on the federal purse strings has brought results for the taxpayers. Working to combat fraud against the government by defense contractors in 1986, Grassley won passage of amendments to the False Claims Act. To date, the Grassley amendments have recovered \$3.3 billion to the U.S. Treasury and have helped to deter untold billions more. The Grassley provisions have become the government's most effective weapon against health care fraud.

Honoring the memory of the American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War, it was Chuck Grassley who in 1992 successfully challenged the U.S. government to release over a million pages of documents about those left behind as POWs and MIAs. Grassley pulled back the cloak of secrecy that had surrounded this painful chapter in American history. For the families and loved ones of those brave men, there was no stronger advocate than Iowa's senior senator.

A farm-state lawmaker, Grassley exercises his authority on the Senate Judiciary and Finance Committees to watch out for rural America's interests. Trouble-shooting for the Midlands, Grassley has taken a leading role in Washington to monitor mega-mergers and potentially anti-competitive behavior. Specifically, Grassley has asked the U.S. Justice Department to gauge disproportionate impacts that corporate mergers in the banking, airline, chemical, seed, railway, telecommunications, and utilities industries may have on farmers, small business owners, workers, and consumers in rural America. Grassley has introduced legislation that would for the first time give the USDA expanded authority to challenge anti-competitive practices in agribusiness if it finds a merger would cause substantial harm to the ability of independent producers and family farmers to compete in the marketplace.

After working two years to bring increased competition to under-served markets like Iowa, Grassley crossed a major legislative hurdle in 2000 to open the door for increased airline competition to Iowans.



Grassley and colleagues send IRS reform to the President. – July 1998

Start-up and budget carriers now will have a better opportunity to get their businesses off the ground in Iowa. Meaningful airline competition will improve Iowa's ability to attract and keep a competitive business climate that supports high-paying jobs.

Since 1981, Grassley has served all but four years on the influential Senate Finance Committee. In the 107th Congress, Grassley's seniority paid off as he took the reins of what he calls the "quality of life committee." From here, Grassley will guide matters of public policy that affect the health and welfare of American citizens, virtually from cradle to grave, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, federal taxes, trade and pensions.

Faced with a rare 50-50 split among Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and on the committee, Grassley vows to seize the opportunity and forge a consensus that will achieve results not gridlock. His goals as chairman include crafting legislation that would minimize the marriage tax penalty; repeal the estate tax; lower marginal tax rates; increase trade opportunities; simplify the pension system; address Social Security's long-term viability; modernize the Medicare program with a prescription drug benefit alongside other structural reforms, including health care equity for rural states; and reauthorize the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

A Butler County native, Grassley understands the ins and outs of farming and how policy decisions from Washington impact the hardworking American farmer. Scoring a major victory for the Upper Midwest, Grassley orchestrated congressional approval to extend the ethanol program to 2007.

Committed to a strong, diversified economy to keep good-paying jobs that keep young people in Iowa, Grassley advocates free and fair trade opportunities to enhance Iowa's competitiveness in the global economy. Since 1986, Grassley has hosted hundreds of international ambassadors on a biennial tour of his home state to showcase Iowa's people, products and places to our global trading partners.

Grassley's commitment to Iowa's future and the next generation prompted him to launch an extensive, first-of-its-kind statewide initiative to address Iowa's growing drug problem. Called Face It Together (F.I.T.), Grassley spearheaded the grassroots-based anti-drug strategy to help Iowa families work together to keep their communities, schools and workplaces drug-free. As chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, Grassley takes aim at money laundering, crime rings and drug trafficking that victimize America's youth.

While Senator Grassley works in Washington, he lives in Iowa. He returns home almost every weekend. He and his wife Barbara raised five children in New Hartford. They have nine grandchildren.